THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The amount of financial assistance provided to the people of North East Region belonging to SC, ST and Minority community during each year of the Eighth Five Year Plan is annexed. *(See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 16) Funds are released by the Ministry Scheme-wise/State-wise. No funds are released Community-wise.

(b) and (c) In none of the seven North Eastern States, the Minority Development Finance Corporation is working under State SC/ST development Finance Corporation. All the State Governments have been requested to incorporate Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and to nominate the same as Channelising Agency of National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation. However, it is the prerogative of State Governments to consider viability of separate Corporation for Minorities depending upon the population of Minorities, resources of the State etc. As on date, a separate Minorities Development and Finance Corporation is functioning in Tripura and similar agency is under incorporation in Assam.

Funds to strengthen research and development in CSIR

*75. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has drawn up a programme demanding more funds to strengthen R&D;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of scientific industrial research patented by CSIR during the last three years? '

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (PROF. YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes Sir, CSIR has drawn up a programme to modernise and strengthen its R&D during the IX Five Year Plan period. It has submitted the proposal for the consideration of the Planning Commission. The IX Plan interalia seeks budgetary support of Rs. 250 crore for modernisation of its facilities and equipment and Rs. 360 crore for establishing new facilities with CSIR supplementing the budgetary grants through generation of extra budgetary resources. The Plan allocation for 1997-98 for Modernisation is Rs. 50 crores. In addition CSIR would be given matching grant equal to the incremental commercial rupee generated by it in 1996-97.

(b) The Planning Commission has yet to decide on the IX Five Year Plan allocations including those of CSIR.

(c) The number of patents filed by CSIR during the last three years is as under:—

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Indian patents filing	241	260	209
Foreig patents filing	29	58	70

Foodgrain worth Rs. 2500 crore missing from FCI Godowns

*76. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that foodgrain worth over Rs. 2500 crore have been found missing from the godowns of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered to trace the missing foodgrains;

(c) whether it is also true that several transport contractors engaged by FCI have siphoned off 6,348 tonnes of rice worth Rs. 50 crore in connivance with the officials of FCI;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) whether any action has been taken against the said transport contractors and the officials of FCI involved in the theft of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUBANS' PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to certain discrepancies in the stock position maintained by the Government vis-a-vis the Food Corporation of India, Government is conducting an exercise to reconcile the stock figures. A special audit has also been ordered by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(c) to (e) Two contractors namely M/s Gautam Associates, Mohali; and M/s Yazen Ayjer & Co., Pehowa, who were appointed as transport contractors for transportation of foodgrains from Haryana to Imphal (Manipur), had not delivered 4368 MT and 1543 MT of foodgrains valuing about Rs. 4.25 crores. On the basis of preliminary investigations, 6 Assistant Managers and one District Manager of Food Corporation of India have been placed under suspension. FIR has also been lodged against the defaulting contractors for misappropriation of foodgrains. The Government has also approved the proposal of the Food Corporation of India to refer the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigations, and FCI has taken action accordingly.

Value of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery Spares in CIL

*77. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of heavy earth moving machinery spares held company-wise by Coal India Ltd. as on 1st January, 1997;

(b) what has been the value of average monthly consumption of heavy earth moving machinery spare parts;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the spare parts inventory management in Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take for streamlining the inventory management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total value of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery, spares held company-wise by Coal India Limited as on 1st January, 1997;

The value of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) spare parts held by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) as on 1.1.97 cannot be given since audit report for the year 1996-97 is not yet finalised. However, company-wise total values of HEMM spares as on 31.3.96 as per audited figures are as under:

COMPANY	INVENTORY (Rs. in Crs.)
ECL	43.48
BCCL	47.67
CCL	56.09
WCL	41.40
SECL	88.39
MCL	22.73
NCL	210.40
NEC	1.61
CIL TOTAL	511.77